

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

In the Claims:

1-22. CANCELED.

23. (ORIGINAL) A method of popping corn in a plurality of batches from batches of corn and oil beginning with a cold start batch and then subsequent batches, including the step of:

raising the kettle temperature after loading a subsequent batch of corn and oil to a dump temperature by energizing heat elements and heating the kettle to one rise temperature and deenergizing the elements while the kettle temperature climbs beyond said one rise temperature; and
for a cold start batch, energizing the heat elements and heating the kettle to another rise temperature higher than said one rise temperature before deenergizing said elements while said kettle temperature climbs beyond said another rise temperature.

24. (ORIGINAL) A method as in claim 23 including the step of loading a first batch of corn and oil into a kettle from a cold start at a temperature higher than a dump temperature.

25. (ORIGINAL) A method as in claim 24 wherein a plurality of subsequent batches of corn and oil are loaded into said kettle at a temperature substantially equal to said dump temperature.